

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A picture decoding section starts to decode a bit-stream for one picture when a decoding start command is supplied from a decoding start command generating section, and outputs a decoding completion command when the decoding is completed. Decoded picture data is stored in a decoding frame buffer. The decoding frame buffer outputs a bufferfull notification when a certain quantity of picture data is stored. The decoding start command generating section outputs the decoding start command to the picture decoding section when a decoding completion command is outputted from the picture decoding section and the bufferfull notification is not outputted from the decoding frame buffer.